

FREE THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

"ALL THE NEWS YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW"

March

Depot Town Association

Next regular meeting
Thurs. March 18th 7:30 p.m.
In DTA CABOOSE
400 Market Place

Depot Town Retail Marchants

Next regular meeting
Tues, March 16th 7:30 p.m.



FROG ISLAND WILL BE JUMPING

They say that all good things must come to an end... but they didn't say when! The motion has been moved, construed, and approved to make the "Best of the DTA/WEMU Winter Jazz Series" a reality.

Starting at 12 noon on Saturday, June 12th. Depot Town's Frog Island Park will come alive with 10 hours of the finest jazz and blues to be found anywhere.

The 5 groups who will be performing are, in order of appearance, **Dr. Morris Lawrence and the 30 piece Washtenaw Community College Jazz Ensemble**, **Misheavin'**, the **Alberta Adams Blues Band**, the **Marcus Belgrave Sextet**, and, to make sure everybody goes home dancing, the **Lyman Woodard Organization**.

Best yet is the ticket price for the whole day — only \$5.00.

During the week leading up to the day long outdoor concert, our neighborhood will be abuzz with activities, including live entertainment in both **Aubree's Alibi Saloon** and the **Sidetrack**, as well as a wide variety of outdoor entertainment and events. Shops, restaurants and imbibing establishments will be running specials through the week, and heavy media exposure is expected.

In the event of rain (don't wash your car folks) the concert will take place oneither Sunday, June 12, or the following Saturday.

RAG REPORT

If you are a loyal "Reader of the Rag", then perhaps you have noticed that we are gradually initiating some changes in it's content and layout. The first such change occurred several months ago when DTA President Carolyn McKeever designed the gorgeous masthead that adorns the top of each rag. Then, with the extra traffic created from the Winter Jazz Series, the number of copies distributed at the beginning of each month was upped from 500 to 750, and with this issue we grow from 4 pages to 6.

As a result of experimenting with different ideas, layouts, typesetting styles, et al over the last few issues. April or May will bring a different

DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS FOR DEPOT DREAMS

After several months of planning and work with local groups such as the **Depot Town Association** and the **Save The Depot Task Force**, the most recent plan to rehabilitate Ypsilanti's Michigan Central Railroad Depot has been adopted and approved by the Ypsilanti City Council.

That group has approved the several-stop concept which provides for (1) the **City Manager** to enter into

negotiation with Amtrak for access to a long-term leasehold agreement on the property, (2) to open the services of the **Community Development Department** to solicit funds, grants and loans for financing the up-to-one-million-dollar project, and (3) to begin talks with restaranteurs fo the operation of the facility which would provide the most stable business base for this neighborhood since the depot seased operation several years ago.

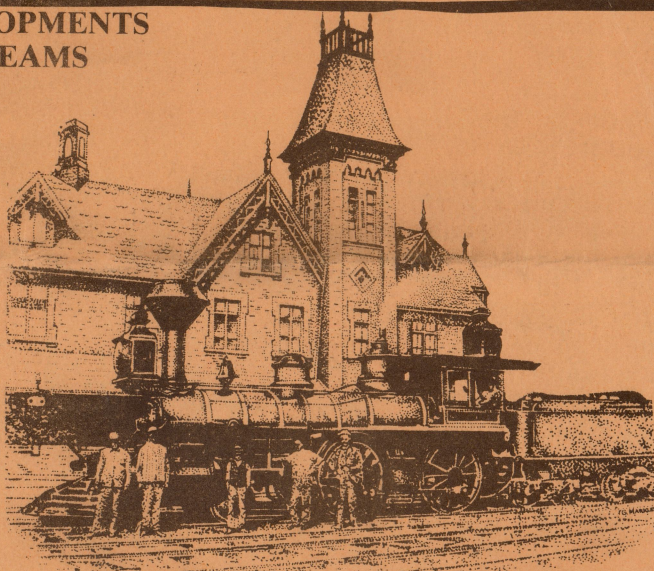
Architect Denis Schmeidicke's design for the rehabilitation of the decaying building has received much attention from many local restoration buffs but must still be seen as a promotional tool to gain attention toward real estate holding, fund-seeking and finding an operator. Once those items happen, the City will handle one of the finest public-owned facilities in the country—a facility which could bring profits to the local city government and bring pride to the entire area.

Some viewers of the plan have already jumped in to criticize the roof ventilator plan or compare the roofline to Howard Johnson's. In a building where the roof is such a dominant element of the design we will probably see a great deal more of such comment, since everyone in the neighborhood feels as if they own the building. Such proprietariness is not uncommon in the district, and Depot Town has been able to ride on such pride of ownership in the most positive ways. Let's keep it up.

We suspect that such criticisms of the plan may be well ahead of schedule, however, and that the physical design of the building will be an important item for the **Historic District Commission** about a year from now.

Certainly this is going to be an unusual opportunity for historic preservationist: just which Depot design will be restored? The original, elegantly soaring Victorian structure had a slender, three and a half story tower, ornate, pierced bargeboarding at the eaves and spiky lightning rods acting as vertical exclamation points at the many peaks of the roof.

Or, shall we restore to one of the several stages of depot which were remodeled by fires, train wrecks and decay? We doubt that we'll ever see the original building again, unless President Reagan decides to cut the defense budget and funnel those funds to Ypsilanti, but we do look forward to seeing a new rehabilitation rather than an authentically restored design rising beside the tracks soon.



Michigan Central Railroad Depot
YPSILANTI 1864

look to the Rag, as we try to fill the gap between your Wall Street Journal, People Magazine, and "Jokes for the John." Not to worry—you'll never see us at the supermarket check out. Circulation will then reach 1,000 copies, letting more folks know what's going on in our little Camelot.

One of the Rag's major priorities, aside from keeping with its tradition of up-beat and often earth shaking news, is to have this rascal at least pay for itself. This is accomplished through-you guessed it—advertising. The Depot Town merchants have rallied to cover the costs of typesetting and printing through their ads, and we ask that you "visit with your Visa's" and patronize them all. If ideas work out, than the Rag might even be able to put a plus in the Depot Town Association coffer.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR JONESY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

On Wednesday, February 17th, over 100 friends and neighbors helped Depot Town's honorary mayor Harold Jones celebrate his birthday at the **Sidetrack Bar**.

"Jonesy," who has lived at 35 Photo Street for 21 years, was showered with cards, presents, and the best wishes of all who attended.

Now it is publically told;

It's a birthday for all to behold.

No, this isn't a quiz

For Harold Jones is

Seventy-Seven years old!

Happy Birthday, Jonesy.

RAGTIME

• Both **Miller Ice Cream Parlour** and **The Treasure Shoppe** have re-opened after winter vacations. Now once again Sally deals good ice cream, Shirley says "I scream good deals."

• Recently an Ann Arbor women discovered Depot Town while on vacation in Pennsylvania. When the Pennsylvania resident found out the women was from Ann Arbor she exclaimed, "Oh Isn't that near Depot Town? Did you know they have the cutest little ice cream parlor there." Does this make Depot Town nationwide?

• **B & D Plumbing** at 13 E. Cross have removed the old garage type doors from their building and replaced them with "historically approved windows. Look Great!

• Depot Town merchants are exploring the possibilities of changing back to angle parking on E. Cross. A presentation to city council will be forthcoming.

• Bonni Rosen-Fine and Sally Richie formally welcomed new neighbors **Forbes Cleaners**, **Black Bart's Pizza**, and **Charismart** to our neighborhood with a welcome basket including flowers from **Hon's Flowers and Fancies**.

• If you're an Irishman (Irishperson?), honorary or otherwise, don't miss the annual parties this St. Patty's Day at the **O'Sidetrack & McAubree's**.

• Just in time for St. Patty's Day—John Waite offers a foolproof hangover remedy. A 6 oz. glass of water with a drop of bourbon should do the trick. If that doesn't work, reverse the proportions.

• D.T.A. Members can expect to receive their membership cards through the mail by mid-March.

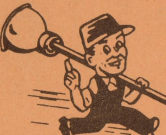
• Bill Krause of Ann Arbor **Words & Images** is now the "typesetter" for this monthly exercise, and as always, we can rely on Bret Schaefer of Ypsilanti's **Speedy Printing** for his patience when we tell him we need it "yesterday."

• Softball games on Frog Island...Outdoor Farmer's Market...bicycle rides...the flower boxes in full bloom...sunsets at 9:00 p.m. There. That feels a little better doesn't it?

• Some have noticed that the 19th Century Cross St. Bridge has sustained some winter damage. Ypsilanti DPW will do the necessary repairs as soon as the weather breaks. "Save the Bridge" was Depot Town's 1st successful campaign when it was going to be replaced with an aluminum structure back in '75.

• Tyner's Furniture of Ypsilanti, invites you to browse through room after room by the area's leading designers, featuring Depot Town pioneer and *dwellen* Warren Lewis, now through March 15 at Ann Arbor's **Hermitage House of Interior Design**.

• Would you like to be "on the Rag?" Send your comments, letters, or ideas pertaining to Depot Town to RAG, 54 E. Cross, Ypsilanti, or see Steve Gross.



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487-1510

13 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
IN DEPOT TOWN, ACROSS FROM CITY BODY SHOP



NO ALIBI'S FOR AUBREE'S

Springtime is a time for metamorphosis. As the snow starts to melt and the chill in the air doesn't seem quite so chilly, strange and wonderful things start to happen everywhere.

Depot Town is no different. As a matter of fact spring has hit us early this year, and this very minute a cocoon is changing into a butterfly fight before our eyes.

Of course the reference is to the all new and beautiful Aubree's Saloon. If you haven't had a chance to check out the new awning or the fine etched glass work (done by Depot Town's Crystal Images) in the door and surrounding entryway windows, do take a look. But don't stop on the outside. Head on in and pause just long enough to check out some of the old photos and pictures in the foyer. Looking straight ahead as you come in you can't help but notice the recently uncovered original black walnut staircase heading up to the yet to be completed second floor.

The written tour stops here. We suggest you catch a train to Depot Town and see Aubree's Saloon for yourself. Be prepared for a good time, and polish up on your darts. See future Rags for updates on Aubree's Saloon and other Depot Town Business'.

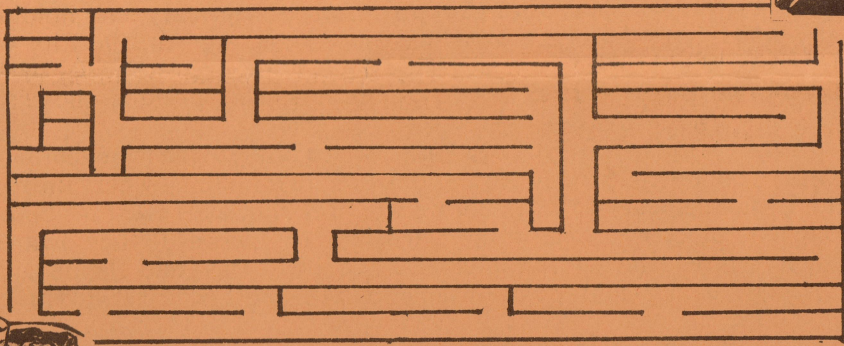
WITH THIS COUPON

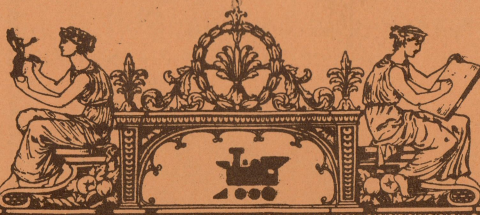
\$1.00 OFF EVERY \$10.00 PURCHASE
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and everything nice

27 E. Cross Depot Town, Ypsilanti 483-6925
Expires 3/31/82 COUPON GOOD ON NEXT VISIT

Can you get the restaurant into the Depot?





DEPOT EXCHANGE

54 E. Cross St. ANTIQUES, Buy & sell
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Miller's
SINCE 1896
ICE CREAM

42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan



SIDETRACK

GOOD FOOD
GOOD DRINKS
GOOD TIMES
Located in Ypsilanti's
Historic Depot Town

56 E. CROSS * YPSILANTI, MI.

CARRY OUT ONLY
483-1035



Rag staff peruses past issue